

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Sections  
5 2-3.191, 27-20.3, and 27-21 and by adding Section 27-20.05 as  
6 follows:

7 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.191)

8 Sec. 2-3.191. State Education Equity Committee.

9 (a) The General Assembly finds that this State has an  
10 urgent and collective responsibility to achieve educational  
11 equity by ensuring that all policies, programs, and practices  
12 affirm the strengths that each and every child brings with  
13 diverse backgrounds and life experiences and by delivering the  
14 comprehensive support, programs, and educational opportunities  
15 children need to succeed.

16 (b) The State Education Equity Committee is created within  
17 the State Board of Education to strive toward ensuring equity  
18 in education for all children from birth through grade 12.

19 (c) The Committee shall consist of the State  
20 Superintendent of Education or the State Superintendent's  
21 designee, who shall serve as chairperson, and one member from  
22 each of the following organizations appointed by the State  
23 Superintendent:

1           (1) At least 2 educators who each represent a  
2 different statewide professional teachers' organization.

3           (2) A professional teachers' organization located in a  
4 city having a population exceeding 500,000.

5           (3) A statewide association representing school  
6 administrators.

7           (4) A statewide association representing regional  
8 superintendents of schools.

9           (5) A statewide association representing school board  
10 members.

11           (6) A statewide association representing school  
12 principals.

13           (7) A school district serving a community with a  
14 population of 500,000 or more.

15           (8) A parent-led organization.

16           (9) A student-led organization.

17           (10) One community organization that works to foster  
18 safe and healthy environments through advocacy for  
19 immigrant families and ensuring equitable opportunities  
20 for educational advancement and economic development.

21           (11) An organization that works for economic,  
22 educational, and social progress for African Americans and  
23 promotes strong sustainable communities through advocacy,  
24 collaboration, and innovation.

25           (12) One statewide organization whose focus is to  
26 narrow or close the achievement gap between students of

1 color and their peers.

2 (13) An organization that advocates for healthier  
3 school environments in this State.

4 (14) One statewide organization that advocates for  
5 partnerships among schools, families, and the community,  
6 provides access to support, and removes barriers to  
7 learning and development, using schools as hubs.

8 (15) One organization that advocates for the health  
9 and safety of Illinois youth and families by providing  
10 capacity building services.

11 (16) An organization dedicated to advocating for  
12 public policies to prevent homelessness.

13 (17) Other appropriate State agencies as determined by  
14 the State Superintendent.

15 (18) An organization that works for economic,  
16 educational, and social progress for Native Americans and  
17 promotes strong sustainable communities through advocacy,  
18 collaboration, and innovation.

19 (19) A individual with a disability or a statewide  
20 organization representing or advocating on behalf of  
21 individuals with disabilities. As used in this paragraph,  
22 "disability" has the meaning given to that term in Section  
23 10 of the Disabilities Services Act of 2003.

24 Members appointed to the Committee must reflect, as much  
25 as possible, the racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity of  
26 this State.

1           (d) Members appointed by the State Superintendent shall  
2 serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for  
3 reasonable and necessary expenses, including travel, from  
4 funds appropriated to the State Board of Education for that  
5 purpose, subject to the rules of the appropriate travel  
6 control board.

7           (e) The Committee shall meet at the call of the  
8 chairperson, but shall meet no less than 3 times a year.

9           (f) The Committee shall recognize that, while progress has  
10 been made, much remains to be done to address systemic  
11 inequities and ensure each and every child is equipped to  
12 reach the child's fullest potential and shall:

13                 (1) guide its work through the principles of equity,  
14 equality, collaboration, and community;

15                 (2) focus its work around the overarching goals of  
16 student learning, learning conditions, and elevating  
17 educators, all underpinned by equity;

18                 (3) identify evidence-based practices or policies  
19 around these goals to build on this State's progress of  
20 ensuring educational equity for all its students in all  
21 aspects of birth through grade 12 education; and

22                 (4) seek input and feedback on identified  
23 evidence-based practices or policies from stakeholders,  
24 including, but not limited to, parents, students, and  
25 educators that reflect the rich diversity of Illinois  
26 students.

1 (g) The Committee shall submit its recommendations to the  
2 General Assembly and the State Board of Education no later  
3 than January 31, 2022. By no later than December 15, 2023 and  
4 each year thereafter, the Committee shall report to the  
5 General Assembly and the State Board of Education about the  
6 additional progress that has been made to achieve educational  
7 equity.

8 (h) As part of the report required under subsection (g),  
9 by no later than December 15, 2024, the Committee shall  
10 provide recommendations that may assist the State Board of  
11 Education in identifying diverse subject matter experts to  
12 help inform policy through task forces, committees, and  
13 commissions the State Board oversees.

14 (i) On and after January 31, 2025, subsection (h) is  
15 inoperative.

16 (Source: P.A. 102-458, eff. 8-20-21; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22.)

17 (105 ILCS 5/27-20.05 new)

18 Sec. 27-20.05. Native American history study.

19 (a) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, every public  
20 elementary school and high school social studies course  
21 pertaining to American history or government shall include in  
22 its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the events of  
23 the Native American experience and Native American history  
24 within the Midwest and this State since time immemorial. These  
25 events shall include the contributions of Native Americans in

1 government and the arts, humanities, and sciences, as well as  
2 the contributions of Native Americans to the economic,  
3 cultural, social, and political development of their own  
4 nations and of the United States. The unit of instruction must  
5 describe large urban Native American populations in this  
6 State, including the history and experiences of contemporary  
7 Native Americans living in this State. Instruction in grades 6  
8 through 12 shall include the study of the genocide of and  
9 discrimination against Native Americans, as well as tribal  
10 sovereignty, treaties made between tribal nations and the  
11 United States, and the circumstances around forced Native  
12 American relocation. This unit of instruction may be  
13 integrated as part of the unit of instruction required under  
14 Section 27-20.03 or 27-21 of this Code.

15 (b) The State Superintendent of Education may prepare and  
16 make available to all school boards instructional materials  
17 and professional development opportunities that may be used as  
18 guidelines for development of a unit of instruction under this  
19 Section. However, each school board shall itself determine the  
20 minimum amount of instructional time that qualifies as a unit  
21 of instruction satisfying the requirements of this Section.

22 (c) The regional superintendent of schools shall monitor a  
23 school district's compliance with this Section's curricular  
24 requirements during the regional superintendent's annual  
25 compliance visit and make recommendations for improvement,  
26 including professional development.

1 (105 ILCS 5/27-20.3) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-20.3)

2 Sec. 27-20.3. Holocaust and Genocide Study.

3 (a) Every public elementary school and high school shall  
4 include in its curriculum a unit of instruction studying the  
5 events of the Nazi atrocities of 1933 to 1945. This period in  
6 world history is known as the Holocaust, during which  
7 6,000,000 Jews and millions of non-Jews were exterminated. One  
8 of the universal lessons of the Holocaust is that national,  
9 ethnic, racial, or religious hatred can overtake any nation or  
10 society, leading to calamitous consequences. To reinforce that  
11 lesson, such curriculum shall include an additional unit of  
12 instruction studying other acts of genocide across the globe.  
13 This unit shall include, but not be limited to, the Native  
14 American genocide in North America, the Armenian Genocide, the  
15 Famine-Genocide in Ukraine, and more recent atrocities in  
16 Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Sudan. The studying of this  
17 material is a reaffirmation of the commitment of free peoples  
18 from all nations to never again permit the occurrence of  
19 another Holocaust and a recognition that crimes of genocide  
20 continue to be perpetrated across the globe as they have been  
21 in the past and to deter indifference to crimes against  
22 humanity and human suffering wherever they may occur.

23 (b) The State Superintendent of Education may prepare and  
24 make available to all school boards instructional materials  
25 which may be used as guidelines for development of a unit of

1 instruction under this Section; provided, however, that each  
2 school board shall itself determine the minimum amount of  
3 instruction time which shall qualify as a unit of instruction  
4 satisfying the requirements of this Section.

5 Instructional materials that include the addition of  
6 content related to the Native American genocide in North  
7 America shall be prepared and made available to all school  
8 boards on the State Board of Education's Internet website no  
9 later than January 1, 2025.

10 Instructional materials related to the Native American  
11 genocide in North America shall be developed in consultation  
12 with members of the Chicago American Indian Community  
13 Collaborative who are members of a federally recognized tribe,  
14 are documented descendants of Indigenous communities, or are  
15 other persons recognized as contributing community members by  
16 the Chicago American Indian Community Collaborative and who  
17 currently reside in this State or their designees.

18 (Source: P.A. 94-478, eff. 8-5-05.)

19 (105 ILCS 5/27-21) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-21)

20 Sec. 27-21. History of United States.

21 (a) History of the United States shall be taught in all  
22 public schools and in all other educational institutions in  
23 this State supported or maintained, in whole or in part, by  
24 public funds.

25 The teaching of history shall have as one of its



1 objectives the imparting to pupils of a comprehensive idea of  
2 our democratic form of government and the principles for which  
3 our government stands as regards other nations, including the  
4 studying of the place of our government in world-wide  
5 movements and the leaders thereof, with particular stress upon  
6 the basic principles and ideals of our representative form of  
7 government.

8 The teaching of history shall include a study of the role  
9 and contributions of African Americans and other ethnic  
10 groups, including, but not restricted to, Native Americans,  
11 Polish, Lithuanian, German, Hungarian, Irish, Bohemian,  
12 Russian, Albanian, Italian, Czech, Slovak, French, Scots,  
13 Hispanics, Asian Americans, etc., in the history of this  
14 country and this State. To reinforce the study of the role and  
15 contributions of Hispanics, such curriculum shall include the  
16 study of the events related to the forceful removal and  
17 illegal deportation of Mexican-American U.S. citizens during  
18 the Great Depression.

19 The teaching of history shall also include teaching about  
20 Native American nations' sovereignty and self-determination,  
21 both historically and in the present day, with a focus on urban  
22 Native Americans.

23 In public schools only, the teaching of history shall  
24 include a study of the roles and contributions of lesbian,  
25 gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the history of this  
26 country and this State.

1           The teaching of history also shall include a study of the  
2           role of labor unions and their interaction with government in  
3           achieving the goals of a mixed free enterprise system.

4           Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, the teaching of  
5           history must also include instruction on the history of  
6           Illinois.

7           The teaching of history shall include the contributions  
8           made to society by Americans of different faith practices,  
9           including, but not limited to, Native Americans, Muslim  
10          Americans, Jewish Americans, Christian Americans, Hindu  
11          Americans, Sikh Americans, Buddhist Americans, and any other  
12          collective community of faith that has shaped America.

13          (b) No pupils shall be graduated from the eighth grade of  
14          any public school unless the pupils have ~~he or she has~~ received  
15          ~~such~~ instruction in the history of the United States as  
16          provided in this Section and give ~~gives~~ evidence of having a  
17          comprehensive knowledge thereof, which may be administered  
18          remotely.

19          (c) The State Superintendent of Education may prepare and  
20          make available to all school boards instructional materials  
21          that may be used as guidelines for the development of  
22          instruction under this Section; however, each school board  
23          shall itself determine the minimum amount of instructional  
24          time required for satisfying the requirements of this Section.

25          Instructional materials that include the addition of  
26          content related to Native Americans shall be prepared and made

1 available to all school boards on the State Board of  
2 Education's Internet website no later than January 1, 2025.

3 Instructional materials related to Native Americans shall  
4 be developed in consultation with members of the Chicago  
5 American Indian Community Collaborative who are members of a  
6 federally recognized tribe, are documented descendants of  
7 Indigenous communities, or are other persons recognized as  
8 contributing community members by the Chicago American Indian  
9 Community Collaborative and who currently reside in this  
10 State.

11 (Source: P.A. 101-227, eff. 7-1-20; 101-341, eff. 1-1-20;  
12 101-643, eff. 6-18-20; 102-411, eff. 1-1-22.)

13 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
14 becoming law.